

contributed to stability and moderation in that important part of the world. The relationship between the United States and Oman has been cordial and cooperative. In an important indicator of the warmth and importance of our relationship with Oman, President Clinton stopped in Oman on his return from India earlier this year and held important discussions with Sultan Qaboos. Agreements on security and economic cooperation between the United States and Oman have established a firm and secure basis for our relationship.

Oman has also played a positive role in encouraging peace and reconciliation in the Middle East. It supported the Camp David accords and was one of only three Arab League states that did not break relations with Egypt after the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty in 1979. Not long after the signature of the Oslo Accords, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were invited to visit Oman, and the country has taken a positive role as chair and host of a Middle East working group on water issues. During the Gulf War, Oman assisted the UN coalition effort.

Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to important legal and political changes that have been taking place in Oman under the leadership of His Majesty. In 1996 with the personal involvement of the Sultan, a Basic Charter was promulgated which provides for many basic human rights, such as an independent judiciary, and freedoms of association, speech, and the press. Some of the enabling legislation issued under the Basic Charter has been issued by the government, but others still remain to be issued.

Sultan Qaboos has also taken a number of important steps to increase the involvement and participation of the citizens of Oman in their government. In November 1991, he established the Majlis ash-Shura (Council of Deliberation/Consultation), in an effort to systematize and broaden public participation in government. In 1997 he established a second consultative body, the Majlis al-Dawla, to further increase the accountability of the government to public representatives. In forthcoming elections, suffrage has been expanded and the participation of women in the political process significantly increased. These political institutions and the broadening of political participation are important steps toward greater democracy, and I commend Sultan Qaboos for taking these important steps.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleague to join me in commending Sultan Qaboos and the people of Oman as we mark the thirtieth anniversary of the ascension of the Sultan to the throne of Oman, and as we note Georgetown University's appropriate honor to him for his contribution to better understanding between the people of Oman and the United States.

HONORING THE LATE JAMES
HOUSTON DOSS, JR.

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and remember an outstanding civic leader of the 12th District of Texas. Mr. James Houston Doss, Jr., a great business leader

and philanthropist, passed away Monday, May 22, at the age of 85. While Mr. Doss's passing is a loss to the community, his life was a blessing to the entire area.

Mr. Doss was raised in Weatherford and graduated from Weatherford College in 1934. He spent time at the University of Texas in 1936 and Harvard Graduate School of Business in 1937.

Many knew Mr. Doss through his role as a successful banker. Not many realized that he worked his way up from the bottom to enjoy his success. Mr. Doss joined Weatherford's Merchants and Farmers State Bank (now Texas Bank) in 1929 as a janitor earning only \$15 each month. After years of dedicated service, he was chosen to serve the bank as president from 1945–55.

Mr. Doss then left banking to pursue other interests in homebuilding, shopping center development, and real estate investment but quickly returned to the bank. He served as Chairman of the Board for years and became Chairman Emeritus in 1998. Most recently, Mr. Doss was named "Banker of the Year" by the National Institute of Community Banking.

In addition to his successful career in the banking business, Mr. Doss taught accounting at his alma mater, Weatherford College. His contributions of time, talent, and resources were responsible for the Doss Student Center, the Doss Scholarship Fund, and many other initiatives. His commitment to education was demonstrated in his service as a trustee of Weatherford College and the Weatherford Independent School District. For 33 years, he was on the Board of Trustees at Trinity University in San Antonio. In 1976, he was named Outstanding Citizen of the Year by the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce because of his business success and commitment to education.

In addition to his service in the education community, Mr. Doss was also very involved in the Presbyterian Church. He was the third generation of his family to serve as a Presbyterian elder in Parker County; and he held many positions within the church including moderator for the Synod of Texas of the Presbyterian Church in the USA in 1964, first president of The United Presbyterian Foundation Synod of the Sun, and trustee of the National United Presbyterian Foundation in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for the entire community when I express our great remorse at the passing of James Houston Doss, Jr. Mr. Doss set a standard for community activism and professional excellence, and he will be greatly missed.

HONORING THE LATE JOSEPHINE
BARNETT LACKEY

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, my heart is heavy and saddened today at the passing of Mrs. Josephine Barnett Lackey, affectionately known as "Miss Jo", who passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, May 14, 2000, at the St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville, TN, after suffering cardiac arrest. "Miss Jo", a constituent of mine from Forest, Mississippi, was the wife

of Jimmy Lackey, owner of Lackey Home Center in Forest, and one of the more prominent Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders, and Exhibitors in our state. Her death was untimely, and has certainly shocked and devastated the Forest community.

"Miss Jo" grew up in the Standing Pine community in Leake County, and graduated from Walnut Grove High School. She graduated from Delta State University with a degree in Elementary Education in the spring of 1950, and shortly thereafter moved to Forest where she taught in the Forest school system. She and Mr. Lackey were married in 1953, and on July 12, 2000, they would have celebrated their 47th wedding anniversary. For more than 50 years, she was a resident of Forest.

"Miss Jo" delighted in meeting, greeting and helping people. That was her hallmark. That is why the Gift and Bridal Registry Shop she operated in the Lackey Home Center was such a fascination and delight to her. She loved being with people, and offering suggestions that would make their life happier and enjoyable. Sid Salter, editor-publisher of the Scott County Times, summed it up real well when he said in his May 17, 2000, editorial, Josephine Lackey, "there are few homes in Forest that don't have a piece of fine crystal or china hand chosen by Jo Lackey as a gift. For rich and poor alike, she gave her best advice and treated every customer at Lackey Home Center as a friend."

"Miss Jo" was president of the Forest Garden Club, and was a member of the Hontokalo Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was a member of the Forest Baptist Church and was a substitute Sunday School teacher. Her love and faith in God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, was most evident in the two scripture passages that were used by her Pastor Reverend Gordon Sansing, and her former Pastor Sonny Adkins as the text for their remarks at her funeral. These passages were: Psalms 71:17–18 "O God, thou hast taught me from my youth; and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now that I am old and greyheaded, O God forsake me not, until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come", and Proverbs 3:5–6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths."

Again, quoting Sid Salter, "Josephine Barnett Lackey was—by every rational measure of mind, body and spirit—a beautiful, elegant woman. Blessed with the beauty nature gave her as a young woman, Josephine Lackey merited the still beautiful face of a faithful wife, devoted mother and grandmother, hard-working business woman and dependable friend she had earned at the age of 70 when her great heart finally failed her.

Our community is diminished by her passing and we will—with her family—sorely miss her."

"Miss Jo" had a deep love for her family that included husband, Jimmy, son Jim, daughters Julie and Jenny along with their husbands, and five grandchildren. Another daughter, Joy, preceded her in death in 1996.

Without a doubt, the legacy that "Miss Jo" would want us to remember her by is the love she had for her Lord, her Family, her Church, her Friends, her Country, her State, and by all

means her love for Forest and Scott County. She was truly a dedicated Christian lady, and a great American. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to her family. Also, I want to express my appreciation, and that of all citizens of the 3rd district for her life of service, and contributions to the betterment of our world.

INTRODUCTION OF ESTATE TAX RELIEF LEGISLATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to introduce legislation to provide significant and much needed relief to those who inherit family farms and family-owned small businesses. The current estate tax dramatically reduces any legacy a parent wishes to leave to his or her children. Often, inheritors are forced to sell crucial assets of a business or farm in order to pay this federal tax. This greatly discourages the next generation from continuing the family business or life on the farm.

I hear all the time from parents who fear that they will not be able to pass their operations onto their sons and daughters because of the steep tax due upon their death. Due to inherent value of business or farm equipment, property and other assets, an estate of a family-run business—as many farms are—can quickly and greatly surpass the current exemption of \$1.3 million. To me, it is absolutely unfair that people who work all their lives to build a business can have it snatched away from their families by Uncle Sam after they die. According to the Congressional Research Service, more than 70 percent of family businesses do not survive the second generation, and 87 percent are not passed onto a third generation.

Our economy is currently experiencing the largest peacetime expansion in our nation's history. We are constantly reminded that small business has been the engine of this growth. Why can't the fruits of this prosperity be passed to the next generation? Because of a tax code which has not kept up with the rate of economic growth in America.

My bill would increase the current estate tax exemption for family-owned businesses from \$1.3 million to \$4 million over the next five years and then index the exemption to inflation. I know that this is not as far as some of my colleagues would like to go. However, I believe reducing estate taxes in this way stands a better chance of becoming law than repealing the tax altogether. Frankly, I'd rather get some estate tax relief enacted as opposed to getting nothing accomplished.

Our families deserve to see the fruits of their labor passed on to the next generation, and reducing the burden of estate taxes is something that we absolutely must accomplish. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this approach to estate tax relief. Let's get something done on this issue rather than grandstand and obtain nothing.

HONORING THE WOMEN'S DAY 2000
COMMITTEE OF ST. ANTHONY
BAPTIST CHURCH "STRIVING TO
BE A VIRTUOUS WOMAN" PROV-
ERBS 31:10

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Women's Day 2000 Committee of St. Anthony Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York. On Sunday, May 28, 2000, the Women's Department of St. Anthony will celebrate their annual Women's Day.

To celebrate the first Women's Day of the new Millennium, the theme of the event will be "Striving to be a Virtuous Woman," which is taken from scripture, Proverbs 31:10. The task of being virtuous is not easy to accomplish, but it is attainable. The woman of Proverbs 31 had it all. She had excellence, greatness, the favor of God, love and honor, the law of kindness in tongue, morality and character. All of these amazing attributes are the result of a God-centered life.

Mr. Speaker, the reference to the Virtuous Woman in the scriptures is fine and appropriate for this inaugural Women's Day celebration of this new Millennium. I know the ladies of St. Anthony well, and I can say without hesitation, in the tradition of the late First Lady, Sister Grace McCollum, that every one of them exemplifies excellence in leadership, spiritual integrity, high moral and ethical standards. They truly are made in the image of the Virtuous Woman.

While space will not allow me to name each of these remarkable women individually, I do want to pay special tribute here to Rev. Dr. Carrie Johnson, Rev. Renee Washington and Rev. Barbara Williams Norman, the eloquent and passionate guest speakers at the celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to recognize the Chairperson, Sister Elizabeth King-Atwood and Co-Chairperson, Sister Alisa Parris, as well as Captains of the Women's Day 2000 Committee: Sister Tiffany Hiers; Sister Wilhelmina Lewis; Sister Deidre Lewis; Deaconess Enid Hinds-Robinson; Sister Earnestine Frazier; Sister Penny Lilley; Sister Alma Reedy-Dorsey; Sister Carolyn Vails; Sister Clara Martin, and Sister Clara Hayes.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Rev. Theresa Moon, Chaplain; Evangelist Mary Harden; Evangelist Eva Wise; Mother Lucille Norman; Mother Lillian Carter-Wilson; Mother Selma Alexander, and Mother Beatrice Brockington. These women, and the many I could not name here, deserve our recognition and praise.

HONORING THE TEXAS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it has recently come to my attention that this year, the Texas Transportation Institute will mark a historic occasion. For more than 50 years, the Texas

Transportation Institute has conducted applied research in all modes of transportation and transferred the results to the public and private sectors, enhancing transportation safety, efficiency and sustainability and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Director Herbert H. Richardson and the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI).

Looking back on the history of the Institute gives us an interesting perspective on how far we've come in terms of transportation and technological advances. I was interested to note that some of the earliest safety research performed by TTI was to develop safer roadside structures, including breakaway supports and impact attenuation systems. One of the first real-world tests of a breakaway sign occurred in my congressional district in September 1965 when a driver lost control of his vehicle and skidded into an "EXIT" sign on IH-10 near Beaumont. Less than 24 hours before the accident, the local THD maintenance force had placed the TTI-designed slip base and hinge sign support in place of the old fixed one. In this accident, the driver and passenger escaped uninjured, and the vehicle sustained only minor damage. Less than a year earlier, a driver hit the same sign, then mounted on a standard base, and was killed. Today, highway safety is still an issue of major concern and I am pleased that TTI has continued to develop technological advances, such as the ADIEM crash cushion, to make our nation's roads and highways safer. I am certain that there are many Americans who owe their lives to the development of this technology, which is now in use in nearly 40 states. Dr. Richardson and the Institute can certainly be proud of the work.

In the 1950's, Dean of the College of Engineering, Fred Benson was quoted in the Daily Eagle as saying "The Institute intends to assemble a group of men at this college with a thorough knowledge of all types of transportation. These men . . . will provide a forum for analyzing and discussing problems [and] will outline and guide our research program and provide high level education to mature students with an interest in transportation." Given the fact that TTI employs about 570 people—275 professionals, 105 support staff and 190 students, divided about evenly between graduate and undergraduate students, is home to four National Research Clearinghouses and eight National Research Centers, and has urban laboratories in every major metropolitan area in the state, I am certain that Dr. Benson would indeed be very proud of the men and women of TTI and their many accomplishments. Congratulations and best wishes for the next 50 years.

HONORING ELIAS KARMON

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Elias Karmon, who is being honored tonight at a testimonial dinner celebrating his 90th year. To read what he has done is to wonder if anybody else did anything.

He has generously given of his considerable talents to virtually every worthy cause and individual. In 1943 he successfully fought the